

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated May 24, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for failing to functionally label certain elements in the drawings. The Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, number 60 in FIG. 4 has an arrow that properly points to the entire half-bridge switching amplifier system in FIG. 4 and the number 70 in FIG. 7 has an arrow that properly points to the entire hysteresis control stage system in FIG. 7. Since labels 60 and 70 indicate the entire system in the figures, the appropriate figures do not need to have further labeling as they clearly indicate the system in each of the above figures.

However, without agreeing with the Examiner, and merely to expedite allowance of the present Application, a copy of replacement FIGs. 3, 4, 7 and 10 are submitted herein for the Examiner's approval, including labels where deemed suitable.

It is respectfully submitted that the drawings are now in proper form and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Formal drawings will be submitted after receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggests adding headings to the specification. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-22 and the Abstract have been amended for better clarity and conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein-, correcting typographical errors, changing spelling from European spelling to U.S. spelling, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Claims 1-22 and the Abstract are not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 18 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,875,104 to Prager ("Prager"). Claims 7-17 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Prager in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,182 to Tanaka ("Tanaka"). Claims 19 and 20 are rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Prager in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,477,132 to Canter ("Canter"). It is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over Prager, Tanaka and Canter for at least the following reasons.

Prager is directed to a system for operating quantized power converters in a phase staggered power sharing array (see, Abstract). In Prager, the converter operating at the highest frequency is determined and awarded driver status and synchronous phase staggered timing signals are sent to the remaining converters (see, Abstract).

As shown in FIG. 4 of Prager, a phased array controller 200 is shown connected to the control ports 101c, 102c and 103c of each of the three converter modules 101, 102 and 103, respectively (see, Col. 5, lines 5-7). During operation, the controller 200 determines the number, N, of active converters and determines that a converter operating at the highest frequency is the driver converter (see, Col. 5, lines 24-26). The controller 200 then adjusts the array operating frequency F<sub>sys</sub>, to N times the driver

converter operating frequency and phase staggers the remaining converter modules (see, Col. 5, lines 26-28).

In FIG. 5 of Prager, the phase lock loop 201 supplies high frequency clock pulses on the OSC line to each of the converter interfaces cells ("CICs") which the CICs use to generate the phase synchronous mono pulses for the individual converter modules (see, Col. 6, lines 15-19). The PLL 201 supplies one pulse for each of the N converters in the phased array and operates at N times the converter operating frequency of the driver converter (see, Col. 6, lines 19-21). As described above with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5 of Prager, Prager clearly shows the synchronization of the phased array is determined by the driver converter. In other words, the converter with the highest frequency (driver converter) determines the synchronization of the entire phased array in Prager.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the assembly of claim 1 is not anticipated by Prager or made obvious by the teachings of Prager in view of Tanaka or Canter. For example, Prager alone or in combination with either of Tanaka or Canter does not disclose or suggest, an assembly that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "power supply module comprising synchronization control means for generating a

synchronization control signal for a next neighboring module and for receiving an incoming synchronization control signal from a previous neighboring module in order to ensure interleaved operation of all modules without any one power supply module determining a synchronization of the power supply assembly" as required by claim 1 of the present application. Tanaka and Canter are introduced to reject independent claims but do not cure the noted deficiencies in the Prager.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Prager, Tanaka and Canter and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-22 respectively depend from claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to

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submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Four (4) replacement drawing sheets including replacement FIGs. 3, 4, 7 and 10

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